

REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS (MIPA)

(See also General Regulations)

Any publication based on work approved for a higher degree should contain a reference to the effect that the work was submitted to the University of Hong Kong for the award of the degree.

Admission requirements

IPA1 To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the Master of International and Public Affairs, candidates

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations;
- (b) shall hold
 - (i) a Bachelor's degree with honours of this University; or
 - (ii) another qualification of equivalent standard from this University or from another University or comparable institution accepted for this purpose; and
- (c) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.

IPA2 Candidates who do not hold a Bachelor's degree with honours of this University or another qualification of equivalent standard may in exceptional circumstances be permitted to register if they demonstrate adequate preparation for studies at this level and satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination.

Qualifying examination

IPA3

- (a) A qualifying examination may be set to test a candidate's formal academic ability or the candidate's ability to follow the courses of study prescribed. It shall consist of one or more written papers or their equivalent.
 - (b) Candidates who are required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register until they have satisfied the examiners in the examination.
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Award of degree

IPA4 To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of International and Public Affairs, candidates shall

- (a) comply with the General Regulations; and
 - (b) complete the curriculum and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations as set out below.
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Length of curriculum

IPA5 The curriculum shall extend over one academic year of full-time study or two academic years of part-time study and shall include written examinations administered in accordance with the regulations and syllabuses set out below.

Completion of curriculum

IPA6 To complete the curriculum, candidates

- (a) shall follow courses of instruction and complete satisfactorily all prescribed written work;

- (b) shall complete and present a satisfactory capstone project on a subject within the approved fields of study;
 - (c) shall satisfy the examiners in all prescribed courses and in any prescribed form of examination.
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Capstone project

IPA7 Candidates shall complete a capstone project in accordance with the regulations set out in the MIPA Programme. The title of capstone project shall be submitted for approval by 1 December of the final academic year of study and the capstone project shall be submitted by not later than 31 May of the final academic year of study. The candidates shall submit a statement that the capstone project represents their own work.

Assessment

IPA8 Assessment of candidates' coursework during their studies may be taken into account in determining their result in each written examination paper; or, where so prescribed in the syllabuses, may constitute the examination of one or more courses.

IPA9 Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners at their first attempt in not more than half of the number of courses to be examined during any of the semester of study, whether by means of written examination papers or coursework assessment, may be permitted to present themselves for re-examination in the course or courses of failure, with or without repeating any part of the curriculum.

IPA10 Subject to the provision of Regulation IPA 6(b), candidates who have failed to present a capstone project may be permitted to submit a new or revised capstone project within a specified period.

IPA11 Candidates who are unable because of illness to be present for one or more papers in any written examination may apply for permission to present themselves at a supplementary examination to be held before the beginning of the following academic semester. Any such application shall be made on a form prescribed within two weeks of the first day of the candidates' absence from the examination.

IPA12 Candidates who

- (a) are not permitted to present themselves for re-examination in any written paper or any course examined by means of coursework assessment in which they have failed to satisfy the examiners under Regulation IPA 9; or
- (b) have failed to satisfy the examiners in any written paper or any course examined by means of coursework assessment at a second attempt; or
- (c) are not permitted to submit a new or revised capstone project under the provision of Regulation IPA 10; or
- (d) have failed to submit a satisfactory new or revised capstone project under the provision of Regulation IPA 10

may be required to discontinue their studies.

Assessment results

IPA13 A list of candidates who have successfully completed all the degree requirements and are to be awarded Master of International and Public Affairs shall be published. Candidates who have shown exceptional merit at the whole examination may be awarded a mark of distinction, and this mark shall be recorded in the candidates' degree diplomas.

SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS (MIPA)

CURRICULUM

Most of the core courses are taught in the evening or on Saturdays. Some courses may be offered in a 4-week-long intensified format in addition to the usual 12-week format. To receive the award of Master of International and Public Affairs, candidates have to complete 8 courses and a capstone project. The 8 courses include 2 compulsory courses, 4 core courses plus the equivalent of 2 courses from the following options:

- (a) Two more courses (core or elective); or
- (b) Overseas study/internship (equivalent to one or two elective courses); or
- (c) Graduate exchange program with George Washington University (GWU), the Elliott School of International Affairs (students will have to take 9 credit hours of coursework at GWU to fulfill the U.S. residency requirement, with the understanding that 3 credit hours of coursework at GWU is equivalent to 1 MIPA elective course);
- (d) Graduate exchange program with Seoul National University (SNU), Graduate School of International Studies (GSIS); or
- (e) Graduate exchange program with Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva (GIIDSG).

Compulsory courses

Candidates shall complete all courses from the following list:

- POLI6004 Theories of international relations
- POLI6006 International political economy

Capstone project (Compulsory)

Candidates shall complete the course from the following list:

- POLI6031 Capstone project

Core courses

Candidates shall complete 4-6 core courses from the following list:

- POLI6005 International organizations
- POLI6007 International relations in the Asia-Pacific
- POLI6008 Understanding global problems: theory and practice
- POLI6010 Chinese foreign policy
- POLI6011 International security in East Asia
- POLI6020 East Asian political economy
- POLI6029 War and armed conflict: philosophical issues
- POLI6032 International Law
- POLI6033 Cross-Taiwan Strait relations
- POLI6035 War and strategy
- POLI6036 Special topics in international relations (I)
- POLI6037 Special topics in international relations (II)
- POLI6038 Special topics in international political economy (I)
- POLI6039 Special topics in international political economy (II)
- POLI6040 Special topics in Asia Pacific international relations (I)
- POLI6041 Special topics in Asia Pacific international relations (II)
- POLI6042 Special topics in global and regional governance (I)
- POLI6043 Special topics in global and regional governance (II)

POLI8004	Government and law
POLI8005	Government and the economy
POLI8014	NGOs and governance
POLI8024	China's governance in the reform era

Elective courses

Candidates are allowed to complete not more than 2 elective courses from the following list:

POLI6021	Overseas study at Peking University: "Current issues in China's international relations" (one course equivalent)
POLI6023	Overseas study at Johns Hopkins University: SAIS programme (one course equivalent)
POLI6024	Overseas study at Johns Hopkins University: SAIS programme (two courses equivalent)
POLI6030	Overseas study at George Washington University: U.S. foreign policy summer programme (one course equivalent)
POLI6034	Overseas study at Seoul National University: Seminar on area studies – East Asia in the modern world (one course equivalent)

Candidates are required to pay additional costs to take the above overseas study courses (POLI6021, POLI6023, POLI6024, POLI6030, and POLI6034).

Elective courses can also be chosen from the selected courses offered by the following Departments subject to the entry requirements. MIPA students may have to pay appropriate course fees as decided by host departments for these elective courses.

- Department of Law, HKU
- Department of Politics and Public Administration, HKU (Master of Public Administration Programme)
- Journalism and Media Studies Centre, HKU

The offering of these elective courses will be announced in appropriate timing before course enrolment.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Compulsory Courses

POLI6004 Theories of international relations

This survey course is designed for graduate students and offers a rigorous introduction to the main debates and theoretical perspectives of international relations: *what do we know about international conflict and international cooperation? Is the state the most significant actor in international affairs today? Can theory inform us about the actual day-to-day of international politics?* Students will familiarize themselves with a variety of theoretical perspectives; however, the course will not manage to cover in depth and breadth each theoretical approach to International Relations theory. It is most likely that you will leave the course with more questions than answers. The course is structured in three parts. First, we will get settled into the course, understanding more about the roots of the discipline of 'International Relations'. Second, we tackle the mainstream theories and approaches to International Relations theory. Third, we bring the theory back down to earth using an advanced simulation in the final section of the course.

Assessment: 80% coursework, 20% examination

POLI6006 International political economy

This course is a broad overview of major theoretical approaches, concepts and substantive issues in the field of international political economy (IPE). It is designed to help students gain a substantial

understanding of the relations between politics and economics and the interplay between power and wealth. The course starts with a critical evaluation of major theoretical perspectives on IPE and then examines some core issue areas, such as economic interdependence, the international trading system, multinational corporations, the international monetary system, North-South relations, and foreign economic policies of key states in the international economic system.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination

Capstone Project

POLI6031 Capstone project

The capstone project enables students to integrate what they have learned from the MIPA Programme and demonstrate their ability to analyze critical issues in international relations and public affairs. Students will work in small groups and complete a research project. A topic is selected in consultation with relevant teaching staff in September and the title of the capstone project is submitted for approval by 1 December of the final academic year of study. The project is then researched and written and submitted for examination by 31 May of the final academic year of study.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Core Courses

POLI6005 International organizations

This course provides a general survey of the development of international organizations. It begins with the philosophical and theoretical foundations of international organizations and then examines a broad range of international organizations and the issues which these international organizations are designed to deal with such as collective security, peaceful settlement of disputes, and promoting international justice, social and economic development. Special emphasis is given to exploring the roles and functions of the United Nations, and its affiliated organizations. Attention will also be given to regional organizations such as North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and European Union (EU).

Assessment: 100% coursework

POLI6007 International relations in the Asia-Pacific

This course is a survey of international relations in the Asia Pacific region. Instead of providing a comprehensive examination of the history, culture, and national policies of countries in the region, it mainly addresses four issues here: What are major trends in regional IR? What is the source of conflict in the region? What are the common interests that unite peoples and states of the Asian Pacific? How does the region organise itself? It explains dynamics and patterns of regional international relations in a broad geopolitical and geoeconomic context. Topics in discussion include major powers' role in the region, the Korean Peninsula, the Taiwan Strait, ASEAN, Southeast Asia and regional institution-building.

Assessment: 100% coursework

POLI6008 Understanding global problems: theory and practice

This course aims to critically explore some of the major challenges confronting an international community that is faced with unprecedented levels of global interdependency and escalating power asymmetry. The class will provide a detailed analysis of the issues at stake, providing students with the intellectual grounding necessary to critically evaluate many of our most pressing global

problems and their proposed solutions. While the list of controversies changes each semester, some past questions have included: Are genetically modified foods crucial to the fight against hunger? Is U.S. hegemony a force for global (in)stability? Is globalization inherently "anti-religious"? Was NATO intervention in Kosovo justified? In exploring these and other controversies, the course will combine perspectives from the academic literature with those of practitioners, including senior diplomats, representatives from non-governmental organizations, government officials, and corporate executives.
Assessment: 100% coursework

POLI6010 Chinese foreign policy

This course examines key foreign policy issues and the process of foreign policy making of the People's Republic of China. It begins with a framework of analysis for studying Chinese foreign policy. Different models and explanations are used in analyzing Chinese foreign policy. Special emphasis is placed on the revolutionary source of Chinese foreign policy and China's position in the changing international environment during the Cold War and its rise as a major global power in recent years.
Assessment: 100% coursework

POLI6011 International security in East Asia

This course examines major trends and problems in East Asian security. Taking a broad concept of "national security," it studies regional security issues in both "traditional security" sense and "non-traditional security" sense. Besides, introducing basic concepts and approaches to the study of regional security in East Asia, the course analyses national security policies of major powers in the region and how their policies affect regional security environment.
Assessment: 100% coursework

POLI6020 East Asian political economy

This course examines the interaction of politics and economics in international trade with reference to the world economy's most dynamic region - the Pacific Rim. International politics and international economics have been described as interwoven strands in the fabric of world order. This course focuses on three dimensions: First, theoretical perspectives on the politics of international trade and more specifically, the arguments for and against free trade. Concepts such as free trade, protectionism, new protectionism, and strategic trade will be discussed with reference to developments in the Pacific region. Second, the institutional and legal framework of the world trade system: the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and its successor organization - the World Trade Organization (WTO). The institutional dimension will be discussed with reference to the changing global trade environment, particularly in the Pacific Rim. Third, case studies on the major political and economic challenges arising from trade difficulties that Pacific Rim countries have to confront.
Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination

POLI6029 War and armed conflict: philosophical issues

This course provides a thorough introduction into the moral issues of war and armed conflict, with a focus on current debates in just war theory, and in particular on such controversial issues as "the moral (in)equality of soldiers", the principle of discrimination, terrorism, torture, guerrilla warfare and humanitarian intervention.
Assessment: 100% coursework

POLI6032 International law

This course is taught under the assumption that most of the students are not majoring in public international law. It begins with an introduction to the study of international law, its sources, subjects, and its relations with domestic laws. It is then followed by a number of topics including, state sovereignty over territory and jurisdiction, immunities and treaties, UNCLOS, use of force and peaceful settlements of disputes, human rights and humanitarian laws, economic and environmental laws, etc. The course is mainly composed of two parts: lectures and class discussions. As an integrated part, the discussion session demands everyone's active participation. A list of international legal issues and/or cases shall be distributed in advance and "mock chambers" of ICJ or other judicial bodies shall be formed by the students from time to time to render decisions or give advisory opinions on the legal questions concerned.

Assessment: 100% coursework

POLI6033 Cross-Taiwan Strait relations

This course will explore the historical background and contemporary dynamics of the relationship across the Taiwan Strait, and introduces relevant theoretical concepts and analytical tools in studying cross-Taiwan Strait issues. The Taiwan problem has been a defining issue for China and its rise towards a great power in world affairs. The convergence and divergence between Taiwan and the mainland have troubled the Chinese nation for centuries. The course will examine the historical origin of the Taiwan problem and how cross-Strait relations have evolved since the late 19th century. In studying the evolving Taiwan problem, particular attention will be given on the role of the United States in shaping cross-Strait relations. In studying contemporary dynamics, the course will focus on the issues of economic integration, political dialogues, mutual confidence building, and people-to-people exchanges in the development of cross-Strait relations.

Assessment: 100% coursework

POLI6035 War and strategy

Chinese strategist Sun Zi declared: "War is a matter of vital importance to the state; the province of life or death; the road to survival or ruin. It is mandatory that it should be thoroughly studied." Complying with Sun's exhortation this course provides a composite introduction to the theory and practice of modern warfare based upon the precepts of Strategic Studies. It considers the complex relationship between politics and strategy, and the evolution of strategic thought, through focusing on the application of land/air/naval/space/cyber power. It also exposes questions of nuclear deterrence, revolutionary technologies, irregular warfare and terrorism. Through this course students will gain both conceptual and practical knowledge of warfare, and hone their critical and analytical faculties through the examination of complex strategic problems.

Assessment: 100% coursework

POLI6036 Special topics in international relations (I)

This course is designed to explore a selected area or a set of selected issues in international relations studies. The course applies different theoretical approaches to enhance students' understanding of the changing international order and environment, the future prospects for international conflict and cooperation, international security, and current problems of world politics.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI6037 Special topics in international relations (II)

This course is designed to explore a selected area or a set of selected issues in international relations studies. The course applies different theoretical approaches to enhance students' understanding of the

changing international order and environment, the future prospects for international conflict and cooperation, international security, and current problems of world politics.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI6038 Special topics in international political economy (I)

This course applies different theoretical approaches to important historical and contemporary empirical issues in the study of international political economy. Different from the general survey course POLI 6006 International Political Economy, this course examines a set of special topics in international political economy. It examines more recent theoretical developments and applies comparative approaches to real world economic issues. Previous background in the study of international relations and international political economy is helpful but is not a requirement.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI6039 Special topics in international political economy (II)

This course applies different theoretical approaches to important historical and contemporary empirical issues in the study of international political economy. Different from the general survey course POLI 6006 International Political Economy, this course examines a set of special topics in international political economy. It examines more recent theoretical developments and applies comparative approaches to real world economic issues. Previous background in the study of international relations and international political economy is helpful but is not a requirement.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI6040 Special topics in Asia Pacific international relations (I)

This course examines a set of selected topics in the study of Asia Pacific international relations. Different from POLI6007 International relations in the Asia-Pacific, this course focuses on special topics in the study of Asia-Pacific international relations, such as regional stability and cooperation, regional institutions and multilateralism, traditional and non-traditional security issues, regional conflict management and resolution, major powers' foreign policy towards the region, and international relations in Northeast Asia or Southeast Asia.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI6041 Special topics in Asia Pacific international relations (II)

This course examines a set of selected topics in the study of Asia Pacific international relations. Different from POLI6007 International relations in the Asia-Pacific, this course focuses on special topics in the study of Asia-Pacific international relations, such as regional stability and cooperation, regional institutions and multilateralism, traditional and non-traditional security issues, regional conflict management and resolution, major powers' foreign policy towards the region, and international relations in Northeast Asia or Southeast Asia.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI6042 Special topics in global and regional governance (I)

This course examines current scholarly debates relating to the interdisciplinary study of global and regional governance in the context of globalization. The current wave of globalization has created opportunities and challenges for governance at both global and regional levels. This course introduces students to the study of a set of selected issues in global and/or regional governance. It examines competing perspectives on globalization, global governance, regionalization, and regional governance.

It explores the sources and consequences of globalization and regionalization as well as the key actors, institutions, regimes, and norms of global and regional governance.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI6043 Special topics in global and regional governance (II)

This course examines current scholarly debates relating to the interdisciplinary study of global and regional governance in the context of globalization. The current wave of globalization has created opportunities and challenges for governance at both global and regional levels. This course introduces students to the study of a set of selected issues in global and/or regional governance. It examines competing perspectives on globalization, global governance, regionalization, and regional governance. It explores the sources and consequences of globalization and regionalization as well as the key actors, institutions, regimes, and norms of global and regional governance.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI8004 Government and law

This course examines the legal regulation of governmental powers at the constitutional and administrative levels. Topics include: the constitutional development of Hong Kong under “One Country Two Systems” and the Basic Law; principles of constitutional and legal interpretation; constitutional protection of human rights under the Basic Law and the Bill of Rights; the nature of judicial review of administrative actions; exercise of discretionary powers by administrative officials; principles of judicial review and their application in actual cases.
Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination

POLI8005 Government and the economy

The course surveys the objectives pursued by government in managing the economy, the means employed in pursuit of those objectives, and theories concerning government's economic behaviour.
Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination

POLI8014 NGOs and governance

This course examines the relationships between and among the state, market and civil society with particular reference to the work of those not-for-profit organizations and associations which are normally referred to as NGOs. It focuses on the legal-structural dimensions of NGOs and the ways in which they operate in the production, provision, ownership, regulation and facilitation of various goods and services.
Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination

POLI8024 China's governance in the reform era

This course aims to analyze the key issues shaping the governance of China during the reform era. It will examine the institutional and policy challenges critical to China's governance, such as leadership succession, civil service and administrative reforms, central-local relations, regional development, state-society relations, social inequality, globalization and the growing integration between Hong Kong and the Mainland.
Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination

Elective Courses

POLI6021 Overseas study at Peking University: “Current issues in China’s international relations”

The course will explore the major foreign policy issues that are confronting China in recent years. These issues include China and globalization, China and regional security, China’s relations with US, China’s relations with Europe, China’s relations with Japan, and China and international environmental protection. It will be jointly taught by renowned Chinese international specialists based in Beijing as well as practitioners from relevant government agencies such as the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The course is equivalent to one MIPA course.

Assessment: 100% coursework

POLI6023 Overseas study at Johns Hopkins University: SAIS programme (one course equivalent)

The School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) summer program provides students from across the United States and abroad an opportunity to enrol in excellent courses taught in a condensed form. Courses offered include American foreign policy since World War II, global issues: drugs, crime and terrorism, principles and practices of conflict management, strategy and policy, international monetary theory, international trade theory. Students are required to take one SAIS course.

POLI6024 Overseas study at Johns Hopkins University: SAIS programme (two courses equivalent)

The School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) summer program provides students from across the United States and abroad an opportunity to enrol in excellent courses taught in a condensed form. Courses offered include American foreign policy since World War II, global issues: drugs, crime and terrorism, principles and practices of conflict management, strategy and policy, international monetary theory, international trade theory. Students are required to take two SAIS courses.

POLI6030 Overseas study at George Washington University: U.S. foreign policy summer programme (one course equivalent)

This two-week intensive course examines how U.S. foreign policy is made, the history that informs it, the political culture that sustains it, and the ideas and interests that drive it. Taking full advantage of its location in downtown Washington, DC, the programme features visits to key institutions that influence American foreign policy as well as lectures by leading scholars and experts from government, think tanks, international organizations, non-profit organizations, the media, and foreign embassies. More information is at www.gwu.edu/~usfpp

POLI6034 Overseas study at Seoul National University: Seminar on area studies – East Asia in the modern world (one course equivalent)

This course is intended to make students familiar with the contemporary issues related to the East Asian countries, ranging from trade disputes and soft powers to financial problems. Taking an historical approach and using key theoretical perspectives, students will learn how the East Asian region has been coping with policy challenges and how East Asian regional order has evolved into its current forms.
